

A Comprehensive Review of CALFED's Environmental Water Account Program

In the December 19, 2005 Statement of Principles, the EWA Agencies agree to conduct a comprehensive review of the EWA by July, 2007. The following is the outline for the review that is now underway. The results of the comprehensive review are expected to be ready in draft form by June 15.

EWA Agencies' Suggested Outline May 1, 2007

1. **Introduction** – Discussion of Review's purpose and objectives.
2. **Background** – History and background of the Environmental Water Account (EWA), why it was created, how it is a key element in the CALFED Program's overall Water Management Strategy during Stage 1, and discussion about key time horizons.
3. **Summary of EWA's Operations** – Brief discussion summarizing EWA's operations during Stage 1 of the CALFED Program, including program's strengths and weaknesses, the EWA as described in the CALFED ROD and Operating Principles Agreement vs. reality and real-time operations, funding challenges, and benefits achieved or not achieved, etc.
4. **2006 Biennial EWA Technical Review Panel's Conclusions and Recommendations, Including EWA Agencies' Response** – The charge to the Panel, objectives of the 2006 EWA Technical Review, results (findings and conclusions), summary of recommendations by the Panel, and a summary of the EWA agencies' response to the Panel's recommendations will be provided.
5. **Other Affected Resources** – A summary analysis of EWA's perceived affects (beneficial and adverse) on the water transfer market and water pricing, groundwater resources, air quality, agricultural land use, and surface water supply will be provided. Much of this information will be based on existing analyses contained in the 2004 EWA EIS/EIR.
6. **Relevant Issues** - The important policy and resource issues relevant to EWA will be identified and discussed. Example issues would be stakeholder involvement, role of science, agency staff resources, mitigation vis-à-vis recovery, beneficiary contributions, federal authorization, pelagic organisms vis-à-vis salmonids, institutional limitations, as well as others as identified.
7. **Key Interrelated Programs** –Other Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Delta Watershed-wide ongoing programs of which EWA is a part of or influencing in some manner will be discussed, including the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), re-initiation of consultation for OCAP under Section 7(d) of ESA, Sacramento Valley Water Management Plan and Agreement (Phase 8), the proposed Lower Yuba River Accord, Delta Vision, and the CALFED Surface Storage Investigations.
8. **Conclusions** –Conclusions about Stage 1 EWA operations will be presented.
9. **Future Considerations** –This section will focus on future considerations when formulating longer-term ecosystem protection and recovery measures.